

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

October 19, 2009

Present: N. Barrett; C. Parrish; L. Romano; M. Sengstock; A. Vlasopolos; W. Volz;
A. Wisniewski; S. Wolfson; J. Woodyard

Absent with notice: H. Tse; J. Whittum-Hudson

Guests: Linda Falkiewicz, University Registrar; Howard Shapiro, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Programs and General Education

The items marked with an asterisk constitute the Actions of October 19, 2009.

1. Strategic Thinking Retreat: Some Policy Committee members objected to the holding of the strategic thinking retreat outside the city of Detroit. They felt the University should support Detroit in these difficult economic times.
2. Dean of Medicine: Mr. Parrish reported that the administration and the AAUP-AFT reached an agreement on the appointment of Valerie Parisi as Interim Dean of the School of Medicine. The agreement requires that she be appointed for a three-year term and have a formal review during her third year.
- *3. 5057 Woodward: Policy Committee asked Mr. Wolfson to write to the administration to request that the street-level windows in 5057 Woodward be cleaned and the empty space on Woodward Avenue be used for a display befitting the mission of Wayne State University. In addition, Policy Committee members expressed their concerns about what they understood to be the forcing out of the minority-owned store in the lobby of the building. It was the only facility where people in the building could get coffee or bottled water.

[Mr. Volz joined the meeting.]

- *4. Proceedings of the Policy Committee: The Proceedings of the Policy Committee meeting of October 12, 2009, were approved as revised.
5. Student Evaluation of Teaching: A faculty member raised issues about the SET. Policy Committee discussed the benefits and the problems with students evaluating teachers. They discussed peer-review evaluations.

[Ms. Falkiewicz joined the meeting.]

6. Graduate Council Meeting: Policy Committee received the agenda and supporting documents for the Graduate Council meeting of October 21, 2009. On the agenda is a proposal to rescind the current graduate course repeat policy. Policy Committee thought the proposed policy would be unenforceable. Mr. Wolfson is the Academic Senate liaison to the Graduate Council. Policy Committee asked him to mention to the Council the problems that they identified with the proposal.

[Mr. Shapiro joined the meeting.]

7. Proposed Change to the First Day of Fall Classes: A faculty member suggested that rather than starting fall classes on the Thursday before Labor Day when Labor Day falls late in September that classes begin the Wednesday before Labor Day. This change would provide that classes would not need to be held the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The Student Affairs Committee will conduct a survey about the change in the calendar that was made in the fall 2009. They will include the question whether students and faculty would prefer to start on the Wednesday or the Thursday before Labor Day. Policy Committee asked that the administration wait to make any changes to the current schedule until the results of the survey are known.
8. Last Day to Register and Last Day to Withdraw from Class: Last year Senate committees discussed changing the last day in a term when students can add classes and the last day when they can withdraw from classes. Mr. Shapiro will write formal proposals for both issues and return to the Policy Committee on November 2.

[Ms. Falkiewicz left the meeting.]

9. Student Orientation Committee: Mr. Shapiro formed an administrative group of the units that report to his office to review the process of admission from the time when the student is a prospective student to being admitted to being courted over the summer to being an iStart student to being a first-year student. He asked the group to review the objectives of each process to ensure that everyone knows the goals. He wants to involve the schools and colleges in the process. The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) suggested that faculty and students be included in the committee membership. Mr. Woodyard, the liaison to the Student Affairs Committee, said that SAC members mentioned that faculty and students had concerns about orientation and thought they could contribute to the review process. Mr. Shapiro will accept faculty on the committee. Mr. Wolfson will request a nomination from the Student Affairs Committee.

[Mr. Shapiro left the meeting.]

10. Agenda for the Academic Senate meeting: The Policy Committee approved the drafted agenda for the Academic Senate meeting of November 4, 2009.
11. Reports from Liaisons: Mr. Woodyard reported that the Student Affairs Committee and the Elections Committee are developing the survey instrument to find out the preferences of students and faculty regarding the change in the fall academic calendar. The survey will be sent out after the Thanksgiving holiday break. The SAC is expected to complete the analysis of the smoking survey in November. It plans to invite representatives of housing, psychological services, and student disability services to meetings for information gathering. It is also reviewing the posting of flyers that damage walls.

Approved as modified at the Policy Committee meeting of November 2, 2009
Corrected on November 16, 2009